

The Governor's Energy Summit: The Future of Energy in New Jersey

**The Trenton War Memorial
Trenton, New Jersey**

December 11, 2002

BPU 2002 Energy Accomplishments

Renewable Energy Initiatives

- \$11.3 million in production credits to be paid to companies for the generation of energy from renewable projects in New Jersey. The energy will be supplied to the grid and the companies will receive per kilowatt credits over a five-year period.
- \$300,000 awarded to study the feasibility of developing offshore wind power.
- Jersey Central Power and Light to conduct a green pilot program in its territory in conjunction with the Basic Generation Service Auction. This will further the goal of increasing the use of environmentally friendly energy while reducing dependence on foreign and fossil fuels.
- \$13 million in financial incentives have been committed to user sited renewable projects under the Clean Energy Program.
- \$330,000 awarded to three non-profit organizations to work with three major groups of building owners-universities, schools and churches-to promote energy efficiency and conservation with their constituencies.
- 113 million kilowatt contract between the State of New Jersey and Green Mountain Energy to supply 196 State operated facilities. This agreement represents 12 percent of the electricity purchased by State government.
- Over 67 projects have been completed to date throughout the State. The major installations are large photovoltaic projects in Hudson, Hunterdon, Mercer and Cordis Corporation/J&J Research facility in Warren County and the development of a biomass project in Monmouth.

- Established regulations prohibiting electric utilities from disconnecting residential service when forecasted temperature for the next 48 hours is 95 degrees or higher due to 1) nonpayment of a delinquent account or deposit; 2) or failure to keep the terms of a deferred payment arrangement. This applies to the same customers who are protected under the BPU's Winter Termination Program.
- Improved notification to tenants of discontinuance of service due to a landlord's failure to pay an outstanding bill.
- Approved a 2-1-1 pilot program to provide one-stop shopping for social service information. When fully implemented 211 will be available throughout the State to assess individual and family needs and direct parties to the necessary resources.

Energy Assistance Initiatives

- Established an interim Universal Service Fund (USF) of \$15 million, providing financial assistance to nearly 59,000 eligible gas and electric customers.
- Partnered with the Department of Human Services to provide assistance to parties whose energy cost is included in their rent. Potentially, over 41,000 households can be assisted.
- Approved staff's release of a "straw" proposal for the establishment of a permanent Universal Service Fund.
- Plan to implement a permanent USF before next heating season.

Smart Growth Initiatives

- Approved a pilot program by Public Service Electric and Gas Company to provide credits on the electric bills of qualifying small businesses along the Camden waterfront. These incentives seek help in the redevelopment of the area by attracting new businesses, while assisting in the expansion of existing ones.
- Working with the utilities and New Jersey Future to identify other means for infrastructure investment to support the Governor's Smart Growth Policy.